

### REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 27, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1, 5-7 and 9-12 stand for consideration in this application. Claims 2-4 & 8 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5 and 7-9 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. New claims 10-12 are being added, which are supported by the cancelled claims 2-3 and 8 respectively. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, as further discussed hereinbelow. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

### Formal Rejections

Claims 1, 5 and 9 were objected to for informalities. Since the claims are being amended as required by Examiner, withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

### Prior Art Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shimamura (US 2004/0204202). Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Shimamura '202 in view of Wicks (US 6,128,475), claims 5-8 were rejected further in view of Ikeuchi (US 7,076,058), and claim 9 was rejected further in view of the Examiner taking Official Notice. Applicants have reviewed the above rejections, and hereby respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

### Claim 1

The portable information terminal 1 of the present invention (for example, the embodiments depicted in Figs. 1-7), as now recited in claim 1, comprises: a body 10 including a first body 100 and a second body 200; a slide mechanism 300 for coupling the

first body and the second body to be slidable towards or away from each other in one direction a camera unit for taking an image; an operation switch unit; and a display section 110 that displays the image to be taken. The slide mechanism 300 couples the first body and the second body so as to take a first state (e.g., Figs. 1A-B) where the body 10 is shortened in a width direction W by sliding the first body towards the second body, or a second state (e.g., Figs. 1C-D) where the body 10 is extended in the width direction W by sliding the first body away from the second body. The body 10 in the first state (Fig. 1A) has a thin and flat appearance that a dimension of the body in a height direction H is larger than a dimension of the body in a depth direction D and a dimension of the body in the width direction W is larger than the dimension in the height direction H.

The display section 110 is arranged on a front surface of the first body facing away from the second body. The camera unit includes a picture taking window 112 mounted on a backside surface (including the part 104) of the first body and exposed from the second body in the first state (Fig. 1B). The operation switch unit includes a shutter switch 213, where is arranged on a side surface of the second body to operate the camera unit in the first state (Fig. 1B).

As recited in claim 5, a first speaker section 105 is arranged on the front surface of the first body and at a position opposed to the camera unit across the first body, a thick end part of the second body does not overlap with the first body in the first state and the second state, and a second speaker section 205 is arranged at the thick end part ~~a portion~~ of the second body.

Applicants respectfully contend the cited references and their combinations fail to teach or suggest (1) such a picture taking window 112 mounted on a backside surface of the first body and exposed from the second body in the first state in which the body is shortened in the width direction, and (2) such an operation switch unit includes a shutter switch 213, where is arranged on a side surface of the second body to operate the camera unit in the first state as the present invention.

By this construction in the present invention; when a picture is taken by the camera function in the first state, the shutter switch 213 installed on the side surface can be operated, while the ends on the both sides of the body 10 are held by the both hand respectively in the compact state (in the first state). Therefore, the portable information terminal of the present invention is possible to prevent camera shake when the picture is taken by the shutter switch 213.

In contrast, Shimamura's electronic image pickup device (CCD camera) 14 generates a video signal by fetching vicinal images surrounding the mobile phone 1, when the mobile phone 1 is changed from the shortened state (the first state) to the expansion state (the second state). In other words, the CCD camera 14 of Shimamura is covered by the back unit 20 in the shortened state (the first state), such that the CCD camera 14 can not take a picture in the shortened state (in the first state). Shimamura does not provide any "picture taking window 112 mounted on a backside surface of the first body and exposed from the second body in the first state" as the present invention.

In addition, Shimamura does not specify the position of a shutter switch of the CCD camera 14. Even if, arguendo, a secondary operating portion 12 serves as a shutter switch. The secondary operating portion 12 is provided on the first primary surface 10a of the front unit 10, rather than "on a side surface of the second body to operate the camera unit in the first state" as the present invention. Therefore, Shimamura can not prevent camera shake when the picture is taken by the shutter switch.

Wicks and Ikeuchi fail to compensate for the above-discussed deficiencies.

#### Claim 7

The invention of claim 7 is directed to a portable information terminal (for example, the embodiment depicted in Fig. 8), which includes most of the features of claim 1, except that the slide mechanism 300 couples the first body and the second body so that the first and second bodies are entirely overlapped in the first state. In addition, the thick end part of the second body 200 includes a surface which does not overlap with the first body in the second state, and the thin end part of the second body is partially exposed from the first body at a cut-out portion 112 thereof in the first state. The second body comprises an alphanumeric input keys section 212 arranged on a surface thereof facing the first body and a microphone section 210 provided into the surface at the thick end part of the second body. The display section 110 and the function keys section are arranged between the first speaker section 105 and the microphone section 210 in the first state, and the alphanumeric input keys section 212 is arranged between the first speaker section 105 and the microphone section 210 in the second state.

As recited in claim 9, the second body is provided with a battery 231 (Fig. 9) which is detachably arranged on a surface of the second body facing away from the first body.

By this construction of the present invention, it is possible to provide a slide type portable information terminal having a favorable packaging efficiency, as well as having a compact form.

Shimamura, Wicks and Ikeuchi simply do not teach the above-mentioned construction. Applicants contend that neither the cited prior art references, nor their combinations teaches or suggests each and every feature of the present invention as recited in at least independent claims 1 and 7. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is thus respectfully solicited.

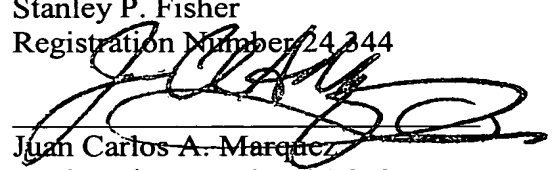
### Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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